

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously presented) A process for production of cation crystals of growth hormone (GH) or of a GH derivative, said process comprising the following steps:

- a) adding to a solution of said GH or said GH derivative cations of inorganic or organic nature and an organic solvent or a mixture of organic solvents at a pH between 5.0 and 6.8,
- b) growing of crystals at a temperature from about 0 to about 30°C, and
- c) isolating the cation crystals grown in step b).

Claim 2 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH in step a) is from 5.8 to 6.5.

Claim 3 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of short chained aliphatic alcohols, cyclic alcohols, aromatic alcohols and ketones.

Claim 4 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetone, methanol, ethanol and 2-propanol.

Claim 5 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the organic solvent is ethanol or acetone.

Claim 6 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the organic solvent is added in a concentration of about 0.1 to about 50% v/v.

Claim 7 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the organic solvent is added in a concentration of from 0.1 to 30%.

Claim 8 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the cation is a divalent cation.

Claim 9 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 8, wherein the divalent cation is Zn^{++} .

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 9, wherein Zn^{++} is added in a concentration from 0.5 to 10 mol Zn^{++} /mol GH.

Claim 12 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 11 wherein the concentration of Zn^{++} is from 1.0 to 3.0 mol Zn^{++} /mol GH.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the growth hormone is human growth hormone (hGH) or a derivative thereof.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A process according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the temperature in step b) is from about 4 to about 25°C.

Claim 15 (Previously presented) Cation crystals of human growth hormone (hGH) or a hGH derivative.

Claims 16-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical preparation, characterized in that it contains crystals according to claim 15.

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Currently amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the organic solvent is added in a concentration of from 0.1 to 20% (v/v).

Claim 21 (Currently amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the organic solvent is added in a concentration of from 5 to [1] 15% (v/v).

Claim 22 (Currently amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the organic solvent is added in a concentration of from 6 to 12% (v/v).

Claim 23 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 11 wherein the concentration of Zn^{++} is from 1.1 to 2.2 mol Zn^{++} /mol GH.

Claim 24 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 11 wherein the concentration of Zn^{++} is from 1.2 to 2.0 mol Zn^{++} /mol GH.

Claims 25-26 (Cancelled)

Claim 27 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH in step a) is from 6.0 to 6.5.